CURRICULUM VITAE OF LEO PLATVOET



Key qualifications

- 6 years experience in Liberia (2012-2016 and 2017/2018) as senior program manager and consultant (2018 – ongoing) of NDI in USAID, SIDA and UNDP funded programs regarding Legislative Strengthening, Building Citizen Centered Political Engagement, Elections Law Reform, Long Term Observer Elections and Strengthening Political Parties Program.
- Experience in writing proposals and implementation of donor-funded international development programs (USAID, SIDA, EuropAid, WorldBank).
- 20 years political party experience as a trainer, campaigner, organizing workshops and seminars, writing textbooks and reports, member of the party board on national, provincial and local level, national president of the party, editor of the party magazine and writing/organizing political party programming.
- 22 years of parliamentary experience as city councillor, senator, and member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
- 39 years of experience in the public sector on local, national and international level as parliamentarian, executive and senior adviser.
- Experience in pre-election missions, elections observations (long and short term), leading elections observation missions, training and consulting of local observers, and chairman of polling stations (in the Netherlands).
- Experience and expertise in project- and program management: planning and control, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation, interim and final reports.
- Proven track record on training, coaching, organizing and presenting workshops and seminars and writing/editing related materials.
- Proven track record on writing policy papers, studies, reports, books, articles, reviews, promotion materials, internet-articles, blogs.
- Proven track record on personnel management: goal setting, involvement of staff, assigning and guiding staff in responsibility, competence, collaboration and quality.
- Experience and expertise in fruitful communication, negotiation, mediation and building support between people of different cultures, visions and responsibilities.
- Experience and expertise in working in and with multidisciplinary and multinational teams.
- Experience in Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine and Romania on high level (mayors, ministers, presidents, NGOs) as head of elections missions, rapporteur on environmental, democracy development and human right issues.

- Experience in post-conflict Liberia as Senior Program Manager for NDI: working in a vulnerable state with legislators, legislative staff, ministry officials and Civil Society Organisation: building up activities (workshops, investigative missions, policy seminars, legislative advocacy) from scratch.
- Experience in regions with 'frozen-conflicts': Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Experience in and extensive knowledge of good governance-, and election-related issues.
- Experience in writing, monitoring, and evaluating project plans and feasibility studies.
- Effectively communicator with audiences from a variety of cultures, technical levels of expertise, and educational backgrounds.
- Experience in visibility campaigns.
- Keen understanding of government and civil society leaders and can relate to them on their level.

Professional experience

Self-employed adviser, trainer, and author (January 1987 – ongoing)
- Writing articles, reports and travel guide books on European countries, housing policy, sustainable development, architecture etc. (see list of publications).
- Training and coaching city councillors and civil servants.
- Project leader organization change.
- Adviser implementing policy planning and control systems in relation with budget-planning.
- Trouble shooter/mediator in political conflicts at the local level.

Volunteer Activists (October 2023 – July 2024)
- Development of a training manual on conflict resolution and coalition building
- Conducting an online training on conflict resolution and coalition building

Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (November 2021 – January 2022 and February 2024))
Consultant
- Writing a 37 pages Political Economy Analysis (PEA) about Liberia to clarify if NIMD can support political party strengthening in Liberia as part of UNDP's governance programme.
- Update of the PEA in 2024 after the 2023 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Westminster Foundation For Democracy (August 2021 – February 2022)
Consultant Advancing Environmental Democracy in Georgia
- Training political parties campaigning on local environmental issues
- Training elected city councillors on local environmental policies

Tom Kamara Foundation (April 2020 – June 2021)
Compilator and editor of the book 'This, Too, is Liberia, Selected writings of the renowned Liberian journalist Tom Kamara'. (270 pages, ISBN 9789461231321.

National Democratic Institute for International affairs (November 2018 - 2022)
Consultant Strengthening Political Program Liberia
- Conduct participatory assessment with party leadership
- Technical assistance political party development
- Facilitator of trainings for political party activists

National Democratic Institute for International affairs (July 2017 – January 2018)
Long Term Observer presidential and parliamentarian elections in Liberia
- Provide a qualitative and quantitative observation and analysis of the pre-election, election day and post-election environments, including the conduct of the campaign.

- Meet, consult, and establish working relations with all relevant political actors in an assigned geographic region, including candidates, political parties, civil society, local community and religious leaders, media representatives, election officials, individual voters, and local citizen and international election observers.
- Attend political events in the AoR, such as rallies, press conferences and meetings as necessary.
- Track electoral disputes, complaints and appeals submitted by local civil society, political parties, voters, etc.
- Prepare and submit weekly reports using standardized forms as stipulated by the Mission Coordinator providing observations and analysis of the electoral environment.
- Prepare an End of Mission report reflecting the electoral process in the AoR, and participate in an evaluation meeting with the Mission Coordinator at the end of the mission; and
- Support the activity of the mission and of the international observers in any other aspect as necessary.

National Democratic Institute for International affairs (April 2012 – May 2016)
Senior Program Manager in Liberia

Legislative Strengthening Program (2012-2013; USAID funded; budget USD 6,346,367)

- Supervising Program Team
- Organizing, advising and facilitating legislative policy seminars
- Organizing and advising legislative study investigation missions
- Training legislative staff
- Working sessions with parliamentarians (Budget, functioning of committees);
- Building institutions within the legislature
- Program development
- Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Budget responsibility
- Developing and managing visibility NDI program (E-Newsletter, Facebook, press releases).

Liberia: Supporting Inclusive And Effective Electoral Law Reform (Nov. 2012- March 2013; UNDP funded; budget USD 70,000)

- Supervising Program Team.
- Supporting UNDP and the National Elections Commission (NEC) in organizing a high-level conference on Election Law Reform.
- Advising NEC on the Draft Election Law.
- Development in cooperation with NEC and relevant committees of the Legislature of a Legislative Action Plan for Electoral Reform.

Building Citizen Centered Political Engagement Program (2012-2016; Embassy of Sweden funded; budget USD 6,461,923)

- Supervising Program Team.
- Organizing/training skill building workshops for CSO-activists.
- Advising and monitoring advocacy CSOs and Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations.
- Developing content and training content managers of parliamentary monitoring website.
- Developing a Step-Down Toolkit on Legislative Engagement.
- Organizing National Issues Forum, National Lobby Day, Public Hearings and Legislative Investigative Missions.
- Program development.
- Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Budget responsibility, including sub-grants.
- Developing and managing visibility NDI program (E-Newsletter, Facebook, press releases).

Other:

- Contributed to the NDI publication ‘Coalitions: A Guide for Political Parties’.

Short Term Election Observer for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Council of Europe

- Hungary (2022)
- Azerbaijan (2005, 2006, 2018 and 2024); head of mission in 2005 and 2006)
- Armenia (2007, head of mission)
- Ukraine (2007)
- Albania (2005)
- Palestinian Authority (2005)
- Russia (2000)

BMC Consultancy (September 2007 – March 2012)
Senior Adviser

- Project-leader on housing, environmental, social and migration issues.
- Training, coaching, and advising of local and national authorities and civil servants.
- Manager BMC branch in Romania.
- Activities in Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Armenia.
- Identification and application of EU (EuropeAid) and World Bank projects on Good Governance.

Social Housing Organisation De Key (January 2004 – March 2012)
Member of the governance board of one of the biggest social housing organisations in the Netherlands

- Policy development.
- Oversight on the budget.
- Supervising board of directors.
- Representative of the tenants.

Council of Europe (September 2003 – September 2007)
Member of the Parliamentary Assembly

- Member of Committees on Environment and Local and Regional affairs, Monitoring the Obligations of the Council of Europe, and Equal Rights.
- Rapporteur on ecological situation in European Deltas.
- Rapporteur on missing persons in the Southern Caucasus.
- Rapporteur on Prostitution Policy.
- Rapporteur on Elections in Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- Head of election missions in Azerbaijan and Armenia: leader of multi-national teams; talks and negotiations with authorities; training local observers, monitored developing of commitment towards European/international election standards.
- Observer of elections in Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Palestinian Authority and Ukraine.

Member of the Dutch Senate (May 1999- May 2007)

- Representation, oversight and lawmaking.
- Member of committees on European Affairs, Finance, Good Governance, Internal Affairs.
- Vice-chair.
- Election campaigning.

City of Amsterdam (September 1996 – December 1997)
Chairman ('Mayor') of a district of Amsterdam / adviser city executive

- Chairing the council and the board.
- Trouble-shooter: responsible for rebuilding trust during a period that the relations between political parties in this district were in deep crisis.

City of Amsterdam (May 1990 – May 1994)
Member of the City Council

- Leader of my political group.
- Member of the presidium and Committees on Housing and Finance.

- Responsible for staff, budget, parliamentary initiatives, media, representation, lobbying, parliamentary work etc.
- Election campaigning.
- Chairing polling stations.

NOVIB/Oxfam (May 1989 – August 1994)
Editor three-lingual company magazine of the biggest Dutch Third-World Organisation

European Parliament Elections (September 1988 – August 1989)
Member of Campaign Staff
- Management of campaign.
- Media, visibilities and promotion materials.
- Organizing and advising policy seminars.

Political party work (GreenLeft/Pacifistic Socialist Party) (September 1976 – November 1990)

National President (1989-1990)
- Chairman of the national board of the GreenLeft party.
- Responsible for party staff, platform, election campaign, party-institutions, magazines etc.

Editor party magazine (1986-1991)

Trainer and Educational Worker (1976-1987)
- Training and coaching of party activists.
- Election campaigning.
- Writing brochures and textbooks.
- Organizing lectures, workshops, trainings and symposia for local and regional representatives.
- Research and implementing of political party programming.

City of Bussum (March 1978 – October 1986)
Member of the City Council
- Leader of my political group.
- Member of the presidium and Committees on Finance, Housing and Social Welfare.
- Responsible for staff, budget, parliamentary initiatives, media, representation, lobbying, parliamentary work etc.
- Election campaigning.
- Chairing polling stations.

International Experience

Activities in the following countries:
Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Mexico, Moldova, Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Education
University of Amsterdam (September 1970 - April 1978)
Sociology - Master of Science

ICT/Social Media Skills

Long time experience (from 1984 on) with the following software and applications: Apple software, Google Applications (Gmail, Calender, Docs, Drive, Sheets), Adobe, Microsoft (Excel, FrontPage, Outlook, Word,

PowerPoint etc), videocalls (Zoom, Jitsi, Microsoft etc.), Mail Chimp (design and sending E-Newsletters) and Drupal (website content manager).
Experienced with professional utilization of Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Blogs and Twitter.

Language skills

Dutch (mother tongue), English (very good), German (good), French (basic).

List of publications

Books:

- "Amsterdam as an emancipation machine" - Thoth / 2005
- "Stepping through the new city" a series of eight volumes on new housing architecture in Amsterdam - De Balie / 1997-2003
- “Odyssee Travel guide books” - fifteen volumes in a Dutch travel guidebook-series on: Greece (4 regions), Portugal, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain (2 regions), the UK (4 regions), Ireland, USA (Mississippi, Blues & Civil Rights).
- “China doesn’t exist, experiences of an independent traveller” – De Balie / 1987
- “Homeless Youth – talks with youngsters without a home” - De Balie / 1988
- “A route map for local elections” – BPJK / 1985
- Resistance in Bussum during World War 2 – Walden / 1985

Articles as a member of the Dutch senate (selection):

- The two faces of the ‘Council of State’
- The fate of the chosen mayor
- The defeat of the European Constitution
- Politics, policy, and the need of information
- The Dutch governmental system on the local level
- Information as a basic need for political control
- The position of the Dutch Senate

Reports on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:

- Prostitution: which stance to take? - 2007
- Elections in Armenia - 2007
- Missing persons in the Southern Caucasus - 2007
- Monitoring report on Albania - 2007
- Elections in Azerbaijan - 2006
- Elections in Azerbaijan - 2005
- Protection of European deltas – 2005

Reports and initiatives as a member of the city councils of Amsterdam and Bussum (selection):

- The need of political renewal
- Improvement of local democracy
- Ecological routes
- Housing of immigrants
- A social framework for local enterprises
- Transparency of local decision-making
- The struggle against unoccupied houses
- A democratic distribution of social houses
- An active third-world policy on the local level
- Support for households with a low income
- The implementation of alternative energy
- A local initiative for more jobs

- The need for local media